



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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October 16, 2000 - For Immediate Release - Please Inform Others

USDA TO MEASURE FIELD CORN, POTATOES & HAY PRODUCTION

The 2000 growing season began with cool, wet conditions. Growers planted corn and chopped grass as weather permitted. By the end of May, harvest of first crop hay was just getting underway. June was warm with temperatures above average across the region but showers continued. Crop development was slow and disease and insect pressures were reported in many areas. Potato planting in Maine was completed, and the condition of the first cutting of hay was good to fair. During July, corn fields were still being planted in some areas and farmers had problems getting hay harvested and dried due to the constant rain. Prolonged cool, wet conditions in August, caused further delays in field activities, slowed maturity of crops and intensified the impact of disease. Warm, dry weather finally arrived during the last week of the month. During September cool mornings and dry, sunny afternoons allowed field activities to shift into high gear. Potato harvest in Maine picked up at month's end when ideal harvest conditions prevailed. The growing season came to an end when the first hard frost hit the entire New England region late in the month.

With less than ideal conditions during the growing season, it is timely that the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service is preparing its annual end of season survey to help determine crop yields and production. The upcoming **December Agricultural Survey** measures 2000 crop acreage, grain storage capacity, and barley, oat and hay stocks. In New England, yield and production data is collected for field corn, dry hay and potatoes. **"This is the only survey during the year that establishes post-harvest official USDA figures for corn and hay production in each state in New England. Information from this survey is also used to help set potato production estimates,"** states Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England field office in Concord, New Hampshire. Davis said the Service will survey some 1,600 New England farmers as interviewers call on farmers beginning November 30. Producers selected for the survey will receive a letter asking for their help and reminding them that their farm data is confidential.

National survey results are released in the **Crop Production 2000 Summary** report from Washington, DC on January 11, 2001. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. The statistics are also reprinted in the February issue of the **Ag Review**. The monthly New England **Ag Review** is available on the Internet and complimentary copies are also mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, NH, and is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at NASS-NH@NASS.USDA.GOV. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

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